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The Pursuit of Happiness

The family is made up of a lot of important parts like, the father, mother, and children. And when those working parts are working together, everything is good. But there are a lot of bad things in this world that can cause families to split apart. The reason for splitting apart is because one of the parts of the family believes it is best for them to be separated, like in the article “The Ballad of a Single Mother” by Lynn Olcott. But when the separation happens, it not just hard on the parents, it’s also hard on the child, like in the article “Children of Gay Fathers” by Robert L. Barret and Bryan E. Robinson. Also we can see how being a single parent can be hard in the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry” directed by Dennis Dugan. Through opinions and illustrations all these share a common similarity of the families trying to find the pursuit of happiness.

In the article “The Ballard of a Single Mother”,Olcott shows the troubles she faced as a single parent. “By 1989 I had been a single parent for a few years, trying to go back to school, trying to support my family, feeling overwhelmed and exhausted.” (Olcott 446). She also talked about during the summer, when she was at work; it was hard for her to concentrate because

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she would be worried about her kids running lose. Along with distractions came a very hardship. “One year, I lost my job. I quickly took another, but at a much lower salary.”(Olcott 447). One thing you have to realize that it’s not just hard on the women but also on the men and children, like in the article “Children of Gay Fathers”, Barret and Robinson say “Much of any distress that one sees in a child living with a gay father may in fact be the result of the divorce or other family tensions.” (410). The article then goes on to talk about the legitimate concerns about the impact of living with a gay father and the stress it can put on the father when he wants to tell his son but doesn’t know when or how too without knowing how the son is going to act. And you see also with the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry”.

The movie is about two firemen that attempt to register as domestic partners in order to bypass the bureaucratic red tape preventing one of them from naming his own two children as his life-insurance beneficiaries; their low-key tricks turn into headline news in this comedy starring Adam Sandler and Kevin James. Chuck Levine (Sandler) and Larry Valentine (James) are two New York City firefighters whose longtime friendship has endured many hardships. All that widower Larry wants is to ensure that his two children will be taken care of if anything should happen to him on the job, and all that single Chuck wants is to carry on with his carefree life of non-commitment. Having once rescued Larry from certain death in a particularly fearsome fire, Chuck feels forever indebted to his brave friend and has vowed to repay the favor when the time is right. When Larry discovers that the only means of circumventing the civic red tape that could throw his children's futures into jeopardy is to take Chuck as his lawfully wedded

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husband, his obligated pal agrees to step up to the alter with the understanding that the arrangement will be a well-kept secret between themselves and the justice of the peace. A potentially fatal flaw in their seemingly foolproof plan is soon revealed, however, when an overzealous bureaucrat decides to question Chuck and Larry's partnership. Subsequently forced to embark on a mandatory honeymoon and pose as starry-eyed newlyweds, Chuck and Larry quickly discover just how important it can be to stick by a friend in his or her time of need.

Even though in this movie they weren’t actually gay, you can see how hard it would be for a single parent trying to raise his or her kids on a low income or just trying to explain to their kid how they feel about the opposite sex. Just like Barret and Robinson said “Father report that the first concern they have about coming out is the well-being and healthy adjustment of their children.”(410).

As we can see, in the two articles “The Ballad of a Single Mother” by Lynn Olcott, “Children of Gay Fathers” by Robert L. Barret and Bryan E. Robinson, and the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry” directed by Dennis Dugan. All are single parents trying to do what they feel is best for them and their family and ultimately trying to find the pursuit of happiness.

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